

Public Lecture will provide insight into the impacts of contaminants in the Grand River Watershed

MEDIA RELEASE

March 18, 2026

BRANTFORD ON - Brant Land Trust is pleased to announce Gerald Tetreault will be the speaker for the third session of the three-part public lecture series *Examining Our Relationship with and Responsibilities to the Land*, presented in collaboration with the Laurier Institute for Water Science, Wilfrid Laurier University.

Gerald Tetreault will provide an overview of research assessing contaminants and their impacts on aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity in the Grand River watershed using a combination of conventional testing, and newly developed molecular tools. The studies measure the impacts of stressors in the watershed, such as road run-off, agriculture, and urbanization. Municipal wastewater effluents are known to release a wide range of contaminants into the watershed, including some that can alter endocrine function and reduce reproductive performance of fish. This lecture will focus on studies of the rainbow darter, a sentinel species in the central Grand River, that shows concerning changes associated with these wastewater outfalls: extremely high incidence and severity of intersex (ova-testes), and will highlight encouraging results of studies done after local municipalities have upgraded wastewater treatment plants, and how lessons learned from this research are being applied in the Brantford area.

Lecture Title: Assessing the effects of multiple stressors in the Grand River Watershed

Date/Time: Thursday April 9, 2026 at 7:00PM

Location: Research and Academic Centre East, Room RCE 004, 150 Dalhousie St., Brantford, ON

The lecture will be presented in-person and online. Admission is free. Registration is required. In person seating is first-come, first-seated. To register, visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/brant-land-trust-public-lecture-gerald-tetreault-tickets-1983885052597?aff=oddtcreator#organizer-card>

“The Grand River and its tributaries are vital to our community! Paying attention to the water quality and quantity by continual monitoring is important.” - Lou Knechtel, Brant Land Trust

“All living things require water quality and quantity. The fish found within natural water systems is the canary in the mine!” - Larry Mellors, Brant Land Trust & Freshwater Conservation Canada

Gerald Tetreault is a Research Scientist at the Water and Science Technology Division of Environment and Climate Change Canada, in Burlington, Ontario specializing in Aquatic Contaminants. He received his education in the Grand River watershed: B.Sc. from the University of Guelph; M.Sc. and Doctorate in Aquatic Toxicology from University of Waterloo, where he continues to collaborate as an Adjunct Faculty. In addition to the areas highlighted in this lecture his research interests include assessing the Canadian Great Lakes Areas of Concern and Athabasca Oil Sands and the bioaccumulation of compounds in food webs. His volunteer efforts include serving on the Grand River Conservation Authorities' Fisheries Management Implementation Plan Committee, with the Society of Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology and he is Science Advisor for the Canadian Ecotoxicity Workshop. He is a member of the Middle Grand Chapter of Freshwater Conservation Canada (formerly Trout Unlimited Canada) and the Halton Regional Salmon and Trout Association. His research has taken him from the Great Lakes and Mackenzie River Basins to Patagonia, Chile.

Laurier Institute for Water Science (LIWS <https://researchcentres.wlu.ca/laurier-institute-for-water-science/>) is a multidisciplinary, collaborative undertaking among researchers in the Faculty of Arts, the Lazaridis School of Business and Economics and the Faculty of Science at Wilfrid Laurier University. The institute focuses on research in hydrological sciences, ecology and biogeochemical sciences, and public policy and management, encompassing the scientific, social, legal, economic and organizational dimensions of the natural environment focused on the common theme of water, ecosystem and human health.

Brant Land Trust (<http://brantlandtrust.ca/>) is a registered non-profit charitable organization since 2010, dedicated to conserving, preserving and restoring the ecosystems, habitat and biodiversity in the County of Brant and the City of Brantford. This commitment is demonstrated through building relationships, acquiring, securing and stewarding land, restoring habitat, and doing outreach and education.

For more information, or to arrange an interview, please contact Rob Knechtel: events@brantlandtrust.ca

Assessing the impacts of multiple stressors in the Grand River watershed

Public Lecture by Gerald Tetreault

Part of the Lecture Series:

Examining Our Relationship with and Responsibilities to the Land



Join us for Part 3 of this 3-Part Lecture Series.

Thursday April 9, 2026

7:00 PM

**Research and Academic Centre East,
Room RCE 004**

150 Dalhousie St., Brantford, ON

Admission is FREE.

Seating is first-come, first-served.

For more information
scan the QR code
or contact:
events@brantlandtrust.ca



Presented by:

